

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the FNAL Office Action mailed on June 4, 2003. All objections and rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-8 and 10-29 are pending in the application.

Claims 28 and 29 were added to better claim the invention.

At paragraph 1 of the Office Action Figures 1-3 were objected to on the grounds that they should be marked as "Prior Art". Amended drawings of Fig. 1, Fig. 2, and Fig. 3 are filed herewith, with the amendments marked in red ink. Approval of the drawing changes is respectfully solicited.

At paragraphs 2-4 claims 26 and 27 were objected under 37 CFR 1.75(c) and 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Amendment of claims 26 and 27, along with new claims 28 and 29 are believed to satisfy this rejection.

Claims 26 and 27 were amended to recite the steps of the method of claim 1.

Claims 28 and 29 were added to recite the method of claim 21.

No new claims fee is required because Claims 26 and 27 were each paid for as two independent claims. Amended Claims 26 and 27 write each as one independent claim. Claims 28 and 29 write the other independent claims of former Claims 26 and 27 as free standing independent claims.

At paragraphs 5-6 of the Office Action claims 21-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hinchey et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,999,541 issued on December 7, 1999 (hereinafter Hinchey).

The present invention, as set out in representative claim 21, comprises in part:

21. A method for operating a router, comprising:

receiving a first control vector, said first control vector having source route information from a routing information field (RIF) of a first token ring (TR) explorer frame transmitted by a source end station on a first TR network, said first control vector created at a remote router connected to said first TR network;

extracting said source route information from said first control vector;

determining if a remote router supports RIF passthrough capability, and if said remote router supports RIF passthrough capability, loading said source route information into a message to be sent to said remote router; and

sending said message to said remote router so that said remote router can extract said source route information and load it into a RIF of a second TR explorer frame for transmission as a second TR explorer frame on a second TR network.

Hinchey discloses a computer network having a first token ring network connected to an Ethernet network, and the Ethernet network coupled to a second token ring network. Hinchey gives a method for sending a token ring data frame from the first token ring network, through the Ethernet network, to the second token ring network.

Applicant respectfully urges that Hinchey does not disclose Applicant's claimed novel *determining if a remote router supports RIF passthrough capability, and if said remote router supports RIF passthrough capability, loading said source route information into a message to be sent to said remote router*.

Further, Hinchey simply teaches a method for coupling two token ring networks by an Ethernet network, while in sharp contrast, Applicant claims *determining if a remote router supports RIF passthrough capability* and if it does, then *loading said source route information into a message to be sent to said remote router*.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully urges that Hinchey is legally precluded from anticipating Applicant's claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) because of the absence from Hinchey of Applicant's claimed novel *determining if a remote router supports RIF passthrough capability, and if said remote router supports RIF passthrough capability, loading said source route information into a message to be sent to said remote router*.

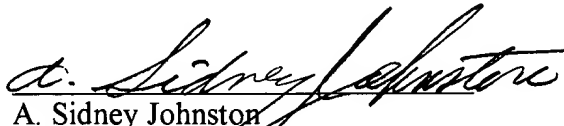
All independent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

All dependent claims are believed to be dependent from allowable independent claims, and therefore in condition for allowance.

Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account
No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,


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